

Message Text

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21L

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CPR-02 SS-20 NSC-07 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /069 W

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P R 260905Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4632

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, OGEN, UN, CT

SUBJ: CAR MISSION DEBTS

REF (A) USUN 793; (B) BANGUI 235

1. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER MOKODOPO CALLED ME IN YESTERDAY TO PROTEST TREATMENT RECEIVED BY CAR MISSION AS RESULT OF ITS NON-PAYMENT OF DEBTS. HE STATED THAT IT WAS NOT FACT IN ITSELF THAT PHONE AND TELEX HAVE BEEN CUT OFF, BUT WHEN SUCH ACTION IS APPLIED TO A DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN NEW YORK IT IS HUMILIATING TO THAT COUNTRY. MOKODOPO ALSO REMARKED THAT ONE EQUIPMENT SUPPLIER (PRESUMABLY WALNUT EQUIPMENT CO.) HAS THREATENED TO ENTER CAR MISSION PREMISES IN ORDER TO REPOSSESS EQUIPMENT, WHICH WOULD BE VIOLATION OF DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY. MOKODOPO TOOK POSITION THAT PLIGHT OF CAR'S NEW YORK MISSION INVOLVED USG AND MATTER MUST BE CONSIDERED AS PROBLEM IN OUR RELATIONS.

2. I POINTED OUT THAT MISSION'S BILLS WERE LONG OVERDUE AND THAT PRIVATE COMPANIES WHICH WERE OWED FUNDS WERE ATTEMPTING TO USE WHAT LEGAL RECOURSE THEY THOUGHT WAS OPEN TO THEM. I ALSO COMMENTED THAT THIS WAS MATTER OF PRIVATE COMPANIES AND NOT OF USG. MOKODOPO REPLIED THAT SUCH WAS PERHAPS THE CASE BUT USG COULD STILL USE ITS INFLUENCE TO RESTORE SERVICES. I REPLIED THAT I WOULD REPORT CAR'S VIEWS TO

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DEPARTMENT AND THAT IN MEANTIME MOST USEFUL MEASURE CAR

COULD TAKE WOULD BE TO EXPEDITE TRANSFER OF FUNDS SO THAT DEBTS COULD BE PAID AND MISSION PLACED ON SOUND FINANCIAL BASIS. MOKODOPO REMARKED THAT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WAS WORKING WITH MINISTRY OF FINANCE TO EFFECT REMEDIAL ACTION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

3. COMMENT: MOKODOPO WAS SURPRISINGLY EMOTIONAL IN HIS APPROACH, INITIALLY TENDING TO BLAME USG FOR CAR MISSION'S CURRENT DIFFICULTIES. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF BLOCKED CAR BANK ACCOUNT WHICH HE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT YET.

4. IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO US IF WE COULD REPORT PROGRESS REGARDING BLOCKED BANK ACCOUNT, RESTORATION OF COMMUNICATIONS OR OTHER ASPECTS OF MATTER BEFORE BOKASSA'S RETURN NOW SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 28.

DALE

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: AORG, OGEN, CT, UN
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